law suit filed by Indian American investors in a Federal District Court. M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited are also not aware of any law suit filed against the company by individual investors.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation package for the deep-sea fishing industry

2806. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3639 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to incorporate the best aspects of the FAO plan to the rehabilitation packages for the deep-sea fishing industry;

(b) what further steps are in the offing to make an acceptable rehabilitation programme for this sick sector; and

(c) whether Government have examined the possibility of subsidising the high costs of port dues in Visakhapatnam owned by the fishing industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGAI) : (a) The recommendations made in the FAO report relate to Demonstration Commercial Fishing (DCF) for diversification of a part of the present fishing fleet; easier credit facilities; and incentives in the form of subsidy/grant-in-aid. The World Bank has communicated that deep sea fishing is not one of the priorities of their Agricultural Division pipeline. However, the Government is already giving assistance for diversified fishing under a Plan Scheme. Interest subsidy and diesel subsidy are also being provided to the deep sea fishing sector.

(b) In order to examine the problems of this sector as a whole, a Technical Committee has been constituted which will examine the issues involved and suggest remedial measures.

(c) No, Sir.

Central Excise rebate for the marine fishing industry

2807. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up with the Finance Ministry to restore the Central Excise rebate which was earlier in operation for the marine fishing industry; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had taken up the matter regarding restoration of Central Excise Rebate for the Deep Sea Fishing Industry with the Finance Ministry. However, the Finance Ministry had not agreed to the same.

Grant of Charter Permits to Sick Fishing Units

2808. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question 1742 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1993 and state :

(a) whether Government would consider the need of sick fishing units for special and specific dispensation for grant of charter permits; and

(b) whether it is a fact that liquidity of resources is the main requirement of sick fishing units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The basic objectives for grant of Permits to entrepreneurs for chartering foreign fishing vessels are the following :

(i) To establish the abundance and distribution of fishery resources in deep seas in the Indian EEZ;

(ii) To assess suitable craft and gear for economic operation;

(iii) Transfer of technology;

(iv) To enlarge deep sea fishing fleet on ownership basis; and

(v) To establish overseas market for non-conventional fish.

This policy was never meant to be a rehabilitation measure for the sick units. Further, the Government is not entertaining any applications for grant of fresh Charter Permits. However, Government entertains applications from entrepreneurs for grant of permission for joint ventures, leasing and test fishing in deep sea fishing sector.

(b) While liquidity of resources could be one of the problems of the sick fishing units, an FAO study has indicated that conversion of a number of existing trawlers for diversified fishing and re-training of the operatives for diversification would help in rehabilitating the sick deep sea fishing industry. A Technical Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to examine in detail the causes of the sickness of the deep sea fishing industry and to suggest remedial measures.

Setting up of Distillery in the country

2809. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the foreign company for setting up distillery in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have agreed to their proposal ; and

(d) if so, what are the conditions on which the foreign company would set up a distillery in the country and what are the implications involved in so far as the outflow of foreign exchange is concerned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) The following three companies have been granted approval by Government of India for manufacture of superior quality whisky and locally bottled scotch etc.;

(1) M/s. United Distillers of U.K. in collaboration with the U. B. Group.

(2) M/s. Seagram Company of Canada.

(3) M/s. Hiram Walker Group of U.K.

These approvals are subject to the condition that the companies will utilise existing licensed capacity of their Indian partners and no fresh licences will be issued. The companies, besides bringing in foreign exchange as direct investment, would also export sufficient quantities of their liquor products to maintain foreign exchange neutrality over 5/7 years.

Agreement with France to set up Food Processing Industries in India

2810. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether high powered delegation of industrialists visited France;

(b) whether France has shown keen interest in setting up food processing industries in India;

(c) if so, how many agrrements have been signed with France to set up food processing industries; and

(d) the details of the agreements and by what time the final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A delegation representing the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry visited France in June, 1993. Quite a few French businessmen evinced interest in joining hands with Indian business in several sectors including Food Processing.

(c) No agreement has been signed.

(d) Does not arise.

Raising of Funds by ITC Ltd. for Food Processing and Marketing Business

2811. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector giant ITC Ltd. is raising capital in foreign countries for entering the food processing and marketing business in India in a big way;

(b) if so, what are the areas, products, scales and equity norms allowed to this company;

(c) whether Government consider to direct the company to raise funds for investment from the producers in India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Ministry of Finance, M/s. ITC Limited, Calcutta have been allowed by the Government to raise up to an amount of US $ 100 million by way of offering of equity shares to be made in accordance with international practices, through Global Depository Receipts (GDR) mechanism in the international market. The proceeds of the issue is proposed to be utilised by the company for its modernisation plans,